

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGY OTRA (GIBSON, WNLDON B.)

SUBJECT: SRI-ARRANGED MEETING ON TOP INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMEN ON
MIDDLE EAST VISIT OF SRI EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT TO CAIRO

REF: STATE 179792

1. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS WILL BE PLEASED MEET WITH
DR. GIBSON AND TO ASSIST IN MAKING REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS.
WE CANNOT AT THIS POINT SAY WHETHER MOST OF MINISTERS
WILL HAVE RETURNED TO CAIRO SEPT 1 OR WHETHER MOST OF THEM
WILL STILL BE IN ALEXANDRIA. DEPENDING UPON THEIR WHERE-
ABOUTS, WE WILL BEAR IN MIND GIBSON'S WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL
TO ALEXANDRIA.

2. WE CONCUR PROPOSED SRI-ARRANGED MEETING IN CAIRO IS
IN PRINCIPLE CONSISTENT WITH OUR OBJECTIVES TO ENCOURAGE
INCREASED INVESTMENT AND TRADE, BUT MUST REPEAT SOME
OF OUR PREVIOUS CAUTIONS.

3. SPECIFICALLY, GROUPS OF 30-50 SENIOR AMERICAN BUSINESS
EXECUTIVES, SOME OF WHOM PRESUMABLY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY

WIVES, IS MORE THAN GOE CAN EFFECTIVELY HANDLE. APART
FROM SEVERE SHORTAGE OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, WHICH
ESPECIALLY ACUTE IN THE SPRING, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH

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SENIOR LEVEL

EGYPTIANS TO MANAGE SO MANY PEOPLE. WE
HAVE SO INDICATED TO RECENT VISITING OPIC OFFICIALS,
WHO ALSO ENVISAGED BRINGING A 50-MAN TEAM TO CAIRO
AND SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT SUCH GROUPS BE LIMITED
TO 20 AS ABOUT THE MAXIMUM WHICH GOE CAN EFFECTIVELY
HANDLE AT ONE TIME. OUR RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH 18-MEMBER
INDUSTRY TASK FORCE CONFIRMED OUR VIEW THAT SOMEWHERE
BETWEEN 18-20 IS ABOUT LIMIT OF EGYPTIAN ABSORPTIVE
CAPACITY.

4. WE WILL SO INFORM GIBSON WHEN HE ARRIVES, BUT WILL
ALSO APPRECIATE DEPT EMPHASIZING THIS POINT TO THE LARGE
NUMBER OF WOULD-BE ORGANIZERS OF VISITING BUSINESS GROUPS.
EGYPTIANS MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE HELP,
BUT WE SHOULD GUARD AGAINST OVERLOADING THE CIRCUIT
BOTH IN NUMBERS OF SUCH VISITING MISSIONS AND THEIR SIZE.
EILTS

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